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communication should be treated as official. We treat every communication—whether it is from the general public or otherwise—on its merits and take suitable action. That is all the assurance that I can give.

Then, Sir, I want to make a submission about the half-hour debate relating to the representation received from the representatives of the liberated areas. I would request that discussion may be confined to that aspect only and not to other aspects."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, the question raised by Mr. Narayana Kurup about co-operatives is one on which you did not allow even one supplementary. It is an issue of very vital importance because it affects the whole of Wynaad. Not only that; it affects the food supply position in the whole of Malabar. I would, therefore, request you, Sir, to allow a half-hour debate on this question also. It may be today, tomorrow or the day after."

MR. SPEAKER :—" To-day, it is not possible. Tomorrow is a holiday and we shall consider when to have it. For the present, let me inform the hon. Member that I have allowed a debate on this. The day on which we shall have it, will be announced afterwards. Questions over."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" What about my adjournment motion, Sir? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" It will be taken up tomorrow."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated the 14th May 1954, from the Hon. Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

' In accordance with rule 111 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras General Sales Tax (Definition of Turnover and Validation of Assessments) Bill, 1954 (L.A. Bill No 19 of 1954), as passed and agreed to by the Council on the 14th May 1954 without any amendment and signed by me. ' "

III.—ALLOTMENT OF A DAY FOR DISCUSSION ON THE MODIFIED SCHEME OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the month of June is fast approaching when elementary schools in the State will be reopened after the summer vacation. We saw in papers yesterday that the Congress Legislature Party has decided on a particular course of action regarding this scheme, and that it has made its recommendation to the Government. We do not

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know what it is. More than once, the Education Minister has stated in this House that a debate on the scheme will be allowed providing an opportunity for the Members to have their say in the matter. Now I want to know from the Government definitely whether they are going to have the modified scheme continued in the new year or they will revive the old scheme. May I know whether they will consult the House before deciding the issue if they have not yet decided it? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This matter was mentioned to me by you, Sir, in your Chamber. I propose to allot Tuesday for discussing this subject."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Full day? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If a full day is required by hon. Members, we have no objection."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I submit that no discussion is necessary if the Government have decided to scrap the scheme? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Then let me make a statement on Tuesday. If hon. Members want a discussion let them have it. I am not anxious about a discussion."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" As a matter of principle and also privilege of this House, the subject should be brought before the House for discussion and should not be dealt with at the party level."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has not understood the Minister. The Minister will make a statement. If hon. Members want a debate, he has no objection. But only when there is a motion before the House that the Minister's statement be taken into consideration can a discussion follow. It all depends on the House itself, whether to have a discussion or not."

* DR. K. B. MENON :—" When the Minister in charge of Education is willing to place the whole subject before the House for discussion and allot a whole day for the purpose, I do not see why it should be made the subject-matter of a statement. Why should it be reduced to the level of a statement? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has not understood the position. I would make the point clear. The hon. Member, Mr. Swayamprakasam, wanted to know whether we would have a debate. The Minister replied that he would be making a statement. Mr. Deivasigamany said that it was not necessary. Whether we should have a debate or not depends on the wishes of the House."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" If the Government are prepared to drop the scheme, a discussion on it is not at all necessary."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Let the Minister make a statement. We shall then decide whether to have a debate or not."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" The matter is not so simple as that. Let the Hon. Minister give a statement regarding whatever he has to say to the House. Let us have a discussion on it for the whole day. Then only we shall be able to fix up our programme."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Shall I take it that we are going to have a debate on the subject on Tuesday? "

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" It depends upon what the Minister says."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" If the Government have not decided about it, then we shall have a discussion. If they have decided to drop the scheme, let them say so even now. We shall have no debate at all on it."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have already made it clear that the Minister will make a statement on Tuesday. If the House wants a debate on it, we shall have it on that day."

(Sri S. Ramalingam rose in his seat.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" I shall allow no more discussion on this We shall have the statement on Tuesday."

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKINGS (ACQUISITION) BILL, 1954.

9-20 a.m. * THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras Electricity Undertakings (Acquisition) Bill [a], 1954, and move—

' *That the Bill be taken into consideration at once.*'

The need for this legislation has been briefly explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons published along with the Bill. The Madras Electricity Supply Undertakings Acquisition Act, 1949, was passed by the Provincial Legislature after mature consideration and was brought into force on 24th January 1950. For the reasons explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Supreme Court has held that the Act was *ultra vires* of the Provincial Legislature.

" In the Governor's address to the Joint Session of the Legislature in February last and in the Finance Minister's speech introducing the Budget for 1954–55, reference was made to the intention of Government to re-enact suitably the provisions of

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[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* Extraordinary, dated 3rd May 1954.